



Iranian extremism reinforcing instability: Muslim World League

Arab News| Beirut

The Muslim World League (MWL) will hold an international Muslim-Christian summit in Beirut next year to combat hate speech and promote cultural and religious diversity, its secretary-general has said. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa said the interfaith summit had particular relevance because of the pernicious influence of Iran in the region. "The extremist sectarian policy adopted by Iran is causing more trouble and reinforcing instability," he said.

"We have always said we are not against Shiism; Shiites are our citizens, neighbors, and brothers."

A novel in verse shortlistes for Man Booker Prize

AFP| London

A pair of debut novels, including one in verse, feature among six "miracles of stylistic invention" short-listed for the Man Booker Prize, judges of the British award announced yesterday.

"The Long Take" by poet Robin Robertson, commended as "a wholly unique literary voice and form", became the first book written in verse with photographs to vie for the prestigious prize.

It chronicles a World War II veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder unable to return home to rural Nova Scotia and instead seeking refuge and anonymity in urban America.



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'Trump suggested Sahara wall to stem migrants'

AFP| Madrid

Spain's foreign minister revealed that US President Donald Trump suggested building a wall along the Sahara desert to stem the arrival of migrants, as he plans to do on the Mexican border.

"Closing ports is not a solution, and neither is building a wall along the Sahara like President Trump suggested to me recently," Josep Borrell told a lunchtime gathering this week, according to a video released by Spanish media.

"Just build a wall that borders

the Sahara,'" he quoted Trump as telling him.

"But do you know how big the Sahara is?," the minister responded.

He did not give any further details.

The reported comments come as EU leaders are locked in talks in Salzburg over how to deal with the number of migrants arriving in Europe.

Spain is at the frontline of this issue, having overtaken Italy to become the number one point of entry for migrants coming to Europe by sea or by land from Africa.



Donald Trump

Many of these cross the Sahara to Morocco and on to Spain across the Mediterranean or over two high fences into the Spanish overseas territories of Ceuta and Melilla in northern Morocco.

Trump's proposed wall along the US-Mexico border, which spans 3,200 kilometres (2,000 miles), could cost up to \$20 billion (17 billion euros) according to some estimates.

The Sahara desert, meanwhile, spans all of northern Africa from the Red Sea in the east to the Atlantic Ocean in the west, or close to 5,000 kilometres.

Pakistan wants Saudi join CPEC

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the flagship project of the multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping, to develop infrastructure

PTI| Islamabad

Saudi Arabia will be the third "strategic partner" of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a senior Pakistani minister announced yesterday, soon after Prime Minister Imran Khan returned from his first foreign trip to the cash-rich kingdom.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project of the multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at enhancing Beijing's influence around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects. Addressing a press conference on Imran Khan's two-day



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan with Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman. - (AFP)

visit to Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE), Minister of Information Fawad Chaudhry said that Pakistan's main interest

lies in cooperation with Saudi Arabia on matters of trade and security. Pakistan has invited Riyadh to join the CPEC as the

third "strategic partner", The News quoted him as saying. Saudi Finance and Energy Ministers will visit Pakistan in the first

week of October, Chaudhry said.

He said the projects that Saudi Arabia would be investing in the CPEC will be smoothed out during the Saudi delegation's visit.

China has rejected accusations that its financial backing for the CPEC was a "debt trap" that could compromise cash-strapped Pakistan's sovereignty.

The CPEC is the fastest-moving and flagship part of President Xi's global Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The CPEC aims to construct and upgrade the transportation network, energy projects, a deep-water port at Gwadar and special economic zones to eventually support Pakistan's industrial development as a manufacturing hub by 2030.

KILLER TRAIL

London serial cat killer turns out to be a fox

AFP| London

There might not be a maniacal cat-killer on the loose in London after all, or at least not a human one. The mutilated remains of hundreds of domestic cats and kittens -- along with some foxes and rabbits -- have been turning up in the south of London since 2015. Horrified locals have pinned the blame on a Jack the Ripper-type figure dubbed the "Croydon Cat Killer" who got his kicks from



Foxes have been blamed for disembowelling cats and kittens in south London

disemboweling pets and posing their remains near schools and outside owners' homes.

The hunt for the presumed killer or killers was picked up by animal welfare groups and eventually Scotland Yard, which on Thursday reported the findings of a three-year investigation. A pet rescue shelter called Snarl even published the suspects' profile: a white man in his 40s who was 1.8 metres (5.9 feet) tall. But London police said the culprits were probably not hu-

man at all. "Following a thorough examination of the available evidence, officers working alongside experts have concluded that hundreds of reported cat mutilations in Croydon and elsewhere were not carried out by a human and are likely to be the result of predation or scavenging by wildlife," Police said.

The police statement went through the details of the probe, which involved detailed forensic work and the study of reams of CCTV film.